

SHOPSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2017

10.00 - 11.05 am in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

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Present

Councillor Karen Calder (Chairman)

Councillors Madge Shineton (Vice Chairman), Roy Aldcroft, Gerald Dakin, Simon Harris, Tracey Huffer, Heather Kidd, Paul Milner and Pamela Moseley

5 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Wynn.

The Chair thanked all for attending and particularly welcomed new members to the Committee, the representative from Healthwatch and the co-optees from the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the meeting. She also thanked the previous Chair, Councillor Gerald Dakin, for his hard work for the Committee over a number of years and was pleased that his experience and knowledge would be retained by the Committee.

6 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

Councillor Shineton declared an interest as a member of Health Concern. Mandy Thorn, Joint HOSC co-optee declared that she was Vice-Chair of Shropshire Partners in Care and a provider.

7 Minutes of the meetings held on 27 March and 18 May 2017

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 March 2017 and 18 May 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

8 Public Question Time

Two questions had been submitted to the Committee by Mr Bickerton in relation to the Better Care Fund and CCG deficits, and the financial pressures faced by the Council. A copy of the questions and the responses are attached to the signed minutes. The Chair suggested that as Mr Bickerton had asked similar questions at previous meetings that the Director of Public Health meet with him to discuss and answer his questions in depth. The Director of Public Health confirmed that he would be happy to do so, but this probably would not be possible before October. Mr Bickerton welcomed this suggestion.

9 Member Question Time

A series of questions relating to Maternity Services had been received from Councillor Heather Kidd. The questions related to bed capacity, demand, staffing numbers, and ambulance cover and had been forwarded to Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust (SaTH). A copy of the questions and responses received is attached to the signed minutes.

There were some follow up questions raised by members of the Committee as follows:

- What happens when the 3 Midwife Led Units are closed, will there be capacity to address demand properly in other local hospitals? What would happen if an expectant mother could not be admitted to Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or Princess Royal Hospital – would they be admitted into a non-maternity bed, would they go out of county?
- Are you able to provide reassurance that mothers will not be left waiting to be induced in a queue as happened when a baby died in the past.
- Have there been any discussions with West Midlands Ambulance Service regarding provision of additional cover so that Mothers to be in the more rural parts of the county, an hour away from PRH, will not be put at risk due to slow transfer time?

These would be sent to SaTH for a response.

The Committee agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to look at Maternity Services, with a particular focus on Midwife employment, recruitment and retention.

10 Introduction to Health Scrutiny

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer gave a presentation on the role and principles of Overview and Scrutiny at Shropshire Council (a copy is attached to the signed minutes).

He explained how Overview and Scrutiny was designed to enable the voice of local people to be heard, to inform and influence decisions of the Council, and to drive improvement through evidence based recommendations. He also emphasised that scrutiny should be member led, non-political and was not designed to address individual complaints.

Health Overview and Scrutiny differed from other scrutiny activity, having the benefit of particular statutory and non-statutory guidance. The primary aim of health scrutiny was to act as a lever to improve the health of local people, ensuring their needs are considered as an integral part of the commissioning, delivery and development of health services. The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee responded to consultations on relevant NHS bodies and relevant health service providers on substantial reconfiguration proposals affecting the Shropshire Local Authority area. The Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would respond to substantial reconfiguration proposals covering both the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin local authority areas.

Officers agreed to make the guidance available to members. It was also agreed that the co-optees from the Joint HOSC be invited to attend the next session of training on scrutiny.

11 Overview of the Key Functional Areas in Adult Services and Public Health and Key Development Areas

The Director of Public Health and Director of Adult Services made a presentation (copy attached to the signed minutes) covering the key areas of focus for Public Health and Adult Social Care in 2017/18. This included slides on: commissioning; cost; prevention; the economics of health and social care; housing, quality and context.

The Chairman thanked the Directors for the presentation, the content of which would help the Committee during discussions around its future work programme.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: